

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Teiji SUZUKI et al.

Application No.: 10/528,362

Confirmation No.: 5029

Filed: March 18, 2005

Art Unit: 1793

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For: METHOD OF NITRIDING METAL RING  
APPARATUS THEREFOR

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Examiner: J. Yang

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**(SUBMISSION AFTER FINAL REJECTION)**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-SB08(s), attached hereto.

II. COPIES

☒ Copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are not included. Copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are included.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE

(Check at least one box)

- ☒ a. DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - Some or all of the patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached PTO SB08 are in the English language and therefore, do not require a statement of relevancy.
- ☐ b. DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:
- ☐ c. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT - An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(III)(A)(3).
- ☐ d. OTHER - The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d): After the mailing date of a Final Action under § 1.113. See the Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

IV. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

(check only one box)

The undersigned hereby states that:

- ☒ a. **Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 30 days prior to the filing of this IDS; or**

☐ b. Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

☐ c. No item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.

☐ d. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

V. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

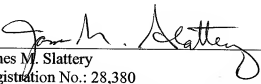
☒ The required fee is listed on the attached Fee Transmittal.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s):

- ☒ PTO-SB08
- ☒ Documents
- ☒ European Search Report dated August 5, 2008
- ☐ Fee
- ☐ Other: